

DANIELS AS SEEN BY NEW YORK SUN

Secretary of Navy is Both Com-
mended and Roasted

SMASHER OF PRECEDENTS

A Review of His Actions and a
Discussion of The Man and
His Methods in the New York
Republican Daily.

(From The New York Sun.)

Washington, July 12.—Washington is fast learning to regard Josephus Daniels as a man of ideas. The capital is likewise discovering that with Josephus Daniels there is a surprising lack of delay between the inception of an idea in his mind and the moment of putting it into effect. Action with President Wilson's Secretary of the Navy follows so closely upon the heels of thought that Mr. Daniels' rapid fire of innovations in the navy has proved something of a shock. All of that part of officialdom which is interested in the navy is sitting up, rubbing its eyes and asking, "What next?"

It is too early yet to determine what will be the permanent effect of Mr. Daniels' ideas upon the naval service, but it is quite apparent what is the state of mind into which he has thrown the navy. This is best illustrated by an occurrence of a few days ago.

There had been published in two New York newspapers circumstantial stories of how Secretary of the Navy Daniels, in his desire for the "uplift" of the enlisted man in the navy, had drawn an order for the abolishment of all the officers' messes on board naval vessels and requiring the officers to eat with the enlisted men. He was deterred from issuing the order, it was represented, only by the reminder that there are many negroes in the navy, and the suggestion that he, a North Carolinian, could hardly order officers of the navy to sit down to table with negroes.

He Smashes Precedents.

The story did not have a word of truth in it. Secretary Daniels pronounced it "an insult to my intelligence." Yet it was the natural outgrowth of his own official acts and his own words expressing his desire to better the position of the enlisted man of the navy; what he had already done and said gave rise to a semi-humorous surmise that the next thing on the program would be to make the officers eat with the enlisted men. As this suggestion traveled about Washington for a month it grew until finally it assumed definite form and found plenty of ears to which it seemed a plausible tale, so thoroughly had Mr. Daniels upset all notions regarding the conduct of the navy. Hence the one great question in the naval service today: "What next?"

What has this North Carolina newspaper publisher and Democratic campaign manager done so effectively to disturb the equilibrium of one of the two great military services of the country?

Mr. Daniels had not been three weeks in office when he summarily removed Philip Andrews, chief of the powerful bureau of navigation, deprived him of the title of Rear Admiral, which accompanies the post, and announced that there were many complaints against the way the bureau had been conducted. The next day he followed this with the announcement that Commander Andrews, who was due for promotion to the rank of Captain and had passed his examinations would not then receive his promotion for the reason that he had not what the Secretary considered sufficient service at sea to qualify him for the duties of a Captain. Simultaneously Mr. Daniels announced identical action in the case of Capt. Templin M. Potts, denying him promotion to the grade of Rear Admiral on the same grounds—lack of sea service. Capt. Potts was serving as aid for personnel at the Navy Department when Mr. Daniels arrived there three weeks previous. From the Secretary's order there was no appeal, and the two officers were sent to sea without their promotions.

Seeks to Democratize Navy.

Even before the Andrews-Potts cases the Secretary had called into his office an enlisted man, a petty officer, who was at the Department on business. Learning of his presence the Secretary sent for him, shook him by the hand, informed him that he was welcome and announced to him, and told him to spread the word to his fellows, that there was a warm place in the heart of the Secretary for every enlisted man in the navy. To the newspaper correspondents he gave out a statement on the incident, filling it with language warmly glowing with fondness for the man in the ranks. Such a proceeding had never taken

place before in that office and in that manner.

In April the Secretary went to Newport. He there announced that the enlisted men were not getting such education as had been promised them when they entered the navy. He added that his ambition was to make of "every battleship a school and every officer a schoolmaster." He proceeded in a few weeks to establish at Newport, R. I., a training station for recruits, a school for elementary instruction to all such young men as had not had good educations before they came to the navy. Officers were detailed to teach the "three Rs," and the new classes are now under way. This he said was to be but the beginning.

Upset in the Pay Corps.

Returning to Washington he announced that he had learned that there are ten vacancies in the Pay Corps. Officers in this corps are regularly commissioned as paymasters. Mr. Daniels announced that he had ordered that none but enlisted men would be allowed to take examinations for admission to the Pay Corps in the ten vacancies. Furthermore, he announced that the examinations would be so lowered in their requirements as to fit the abilities of the enlisted men. No bluejacket would be barred from admission so long as he showed proficiency in the special work of the pay department of the navy, which is really the commissary and purchasing department. The examinations were postponed until October in order to give aspiring enlisted men time to study for them. Meantime young men who had previously been designated for these exams found they were suddenly ineligible to take them and were forced to abandon their studies.

Mr. Daniels by this time also had engaged in a tour of the Eastern navy yards. At the principal yards of the North Atlantic he announced that he was in favor of supplying facilities for big battleship construction at every navy yard and said that he hoped the time would come when there would be a battleship under way at every yard. It has previously been the custom to give private yards enough of the business to pay them to keep up their plants to the navy requirements.

Accused Steel Men of "Holdup."

About the same time he issued statements denouncing the "steel trust" for its bids on armor and gun forging contracts. The close proximity of all bids received from the Bethlehem, the Midvale and the Carnegie companies proved, said the Secretary, that there was collusion among them and that they were "holding up" Uncle Sam on all contracts. In broadsides to the press he announced that it was his intention to seek the establishment of a Government owned steel mill and armor plant to keep the commercial companies from mulcting the Government any longer.

Again the question of promotions came up. There are now suspended the promotions of two young ensigns, one of whom has been for several years on detail in Japan, learning the language of that country. The other has been engaged successively in a series of exhaustive experiments in wireless or radio communication, in special courses at the naval post-graduate school of marine engineering and in a special course at a great technical school. Necessarily, because of their special service details, the two young men have not had the usual sea service. Under the Daniels new ruling the promotions are held up, with the possibility that the officers will be deprived of their promotions until they can serve at sea whatever additional period the Secretary may determine upon. Thus in effect they are penalized for their special service.

Only last week the Secretary went still further with regard to promotions. He promulgated a new set of rules governing the promotion of Captains to be Rear Admirals, setting forth that in each given case the examining board must state specifically why they thought the candidate was fitted for a Rear Admiral's duties, wherein he had shown proficiency and aptitude, the opinion of each member of the board in his case and the bases of such opinions. In other words, he served notice on all Captains, future and present, that hereafter they must "show" him why they should be promoted to the highest grade in the American navy.

Stickler For Sea Service.

Other announcements of rather startling interest with regard to personnel questions were that he would not accept resignations of young officers who wish to leave the navy; that applications of officers for voluntary retirement, under the "plucking board" act, would not be favorably considered if the officers in question had not had at least twenty years' service.

If there is any virtue accruing to the new broom for sweeping clean, if the making of revolutionary changes is the mark of the great executive, Josephus Daniels is one of the greatest. It is doubtful if ever any member of the President Cabinet made more in so short a time in the chair of office. Is it any wonder that the naval service is straining on tiptoe, with hand to ear, asking: "What next?"

In what Mr. Daniels has done there is a great deal that is good and much that is generally condemned. To all that he has done there is another side from that which met the vision of the Secretary of the Navy. It is the naval officers themselves who are most keenly aware of the other side of these

questions and in whom there has arisen a feeling of uncertainty as to what is to come. It is doubtful if any disinterested citizen far removed from naval influences and a knowledge of the naval service would fail to commend most of what Mr. Daniels has done. Yet naval officers are condemning him, and there is a strong current of opinion both in and out of the service that he is making some mistakes of judgment.

Officers Think Him Extremist.

The general criticism of what Mr. Daniels has done is that he inclines to extremes and has attempted to carry a good thing too far. Naval officers complain that the Secretary has apparently come into office with the conviction that all that was done in previous administrations must have been wrong and that the navy has been going to rot while waiting for a Democratic administration to take hold of it and make it what it should be. So far has this feeling gone that men most friendly to the new Secretary declare that he is in grave danger of alienating the support of those who have been most willing to co-operate with him in what he has tried to do.

Take the Potts-Andrews cases. Sound as is the principle of requiring sea service of all officers, in the two cases mentioned it was applied without an hour's notice. The two officers became the victims of the previous administration. Mr. Daniels' predecessor had the same control over these officers as he has exercised, and he chose to detail them to assist him at the Navy Department; the officers themselves had no choice.

Was Justice Done Potts?

Yet both lost their promotion for a time, with the result that one of them, Captain Potts, was compulsorily retired by the plucking board, on July 1. Had he been given his promotion when it was due he would have been beyond the reach of the plucking board. It has since developed that the plucking board inquired if they were to consider Captain Potts as a captain or as practically an admiral. Knowing the reason for their query, Secretary Daniels replied that they must regard him as a captain, and thus in a measure at least he signed the warrant for the termination of Captain Potts' naval career. Yet both men are universally known as most capable and efficient officers.

The case of the attack upon the steel firms bidding on naval contracts is another instance cited. The system of which Mr. Daniels complains was built up by the Navy Department in twenty-five years experience with steel makers. Yet Mr. Daniels proposed to make the steel companies pay the penalty for following the system thrust upon them by the Department itself under both Republican and Democratic administrations. Naval officers pronounced the scheme of a Government steel plant as one involving prohibitive expense, both for initial construction and for maintenance and operation.

His Policies Resented.

But Secretary Daniels' idea for the better instruction of enlisted men in the navy is the feature of which the Secretary has spoken most and which, incidentally, has aroused the most resentment among naval officers. The Secretary has declared that the navy has not been making good on its promises to the young men it has enlisted in the service; that they have not had the opportunities to learn trades that were promised to them.

To this naval officers have replied that such is not the case, that every young man who really wants to learn and who wants to advance can do so and that he will find the officers glad to help him. In response to the Secretary's insistence that the officer should give up more time to instructing young men in duties not in line with the regular work on board ship, officers have pointed to the schedule of daily routine required and have inquired wherefrom the additional time required is to come.

There is a reason for all these departures of Secretary Daniels from the path which the men who have given their lives to the navy had expected that he, like other Secretaries, would follow. Those who were deceived overlooked the personality, the training and associations of this newest Secretary of the Navy in making their calculations as to what he would do.

A Pupil of Bryan.

One has accomplished half of the task in ascertaining the influences that have shaped Mr. Daniels' words and deeds when one takes into account the fact that Josephus Daniels is a worshipper at the shrine of William Jennings Bryan, who occupies an office in the same building with the Navy Department. There is between Mr. Bryan and Mr. Daniels the relationship of pupil and preceptor. Mr. Daniels glories in the words and teachings of Mr. Bryan; Mr. Bryan, on the other hand, has that fondness for Mr. Daniels which the instructor has for his successful and admiring protegee.

For a time during their early days in Washington, Messrs. Bryan and Daniels went to a number of dinners together. On each occasion, the procedure was the same—they entertained the diners with words of fulsome praise for one another. Mr. Daniels declared Mr. Bryan the "greatest Secretary of State since Thomas Jefferson," whom he believes to be the "greatest man who ever lived." Mr. Bryan, on the other hand, has cast an equally radiant halo about the head of his colleague in the Cabinet, and has admitted that he regards Thomas Jefferson as the greatest

statesman who ever lived in any country in the world. Mr. Daniels has confided to friends that he is ready to do anything that Mr. Bryan may want him to do, and between the two there exists fond relationship and genuine love of man for man.

It is, therefore, in part the ideals of "the great commoner" which Mr. Daniels is endeavoring to inject into the navy. While denying that there was even a vestige of truth in the story that he was to require officers and bluejackets to eat together, Mr. Daniels has said that he wished he might bring about a greater mingling between officers and men in the navy. The uplift of the enlisted man, and the bringing of the officer down to a democratic level is what Mr. Daniels would undoubtedly like most to accomplish in the navy.

Neither must it be overlooked that Josephus Daniels is not only a newspaper publisher but also a shrewd politician. He directed the publicity campaign of the Democrats last year, and it is no reflection upon him or his qualifications as Secretary of the Navy to say that he is applying generously the principles of newspaper publicity in his administration.

Than Josephus Daniels there is no man more sincere, honest, earnest or democratic. He is democratic in both his tastes and his manners, and there is no man so humble that he is not willing to receive him on equal terms with the highest that come into his office daily. He is a most lovable man and one who loves those in whom he places his trust and confidence. Yet Mr. Daniels is not a weak man, and any one who so regards him is making a grave mistake. He is positive in his convictions, and his mind once made up, he is prepared to stick to his determination and fight for his ends. He is not to be frightened or bullied into doing anything contrary to the dictates of his own conscience and belief.

While many naval officers and others interested in the navy are alarmed at the tendencies Mr. Daniels has shown, there never was a Secretary of the Navy who had a more intense purpose of developing the navy as a navy, a fleet of fighting ships, than has Mr. Daniels. He is not "a small navy man." On this great and vital essential Mr. Daniels is in entire harmony with the service he heads, so much so that there are predictions in Washington that in the not distant future he and Mr. Bryan even may come to the parting of the ways.

PHYSICAL AND SPIRITUAL FEAST

Throngs Attend Elizabeth City District Conference at Durant's Neck

Durants Neck, July 26.—Large crowds and lively discussions on interesting topics characterized the second day of the Elizabeth City district conference. It was variously estimated that there were from a thousand to fifteen hundred people on the church grounds at the dinner hour. The hospitality of the people toward the visitors was great.

Besides the good things for the national man the people enjoyed a real feast of spiritual things. The evangelistic note rang clear and had a prominent place in the proceedings. The presiding elder's talks at the opening service each morning were clear cut and forcible, introducing the line of thought to be discussed for the day—"Elements in Religious Culture" by referring to the limitations man places upon his life by not making use of the means at his disposal. The effectiveness of church life is crippled because of the failure to educate properly the leading faculties such as the intellect, sensibility and the will.

After the reports from the pastors of the various charges the "Essentials of Effective Church Life" such as the home, the school, the press were discussed interestingly and profitably by Rev. T. McM. Grant, Hon. L. L. Smith, Rev. L. S. Massey, editor of the Raleigh Christian Advocate, and others. Stres was laid especially upon the home life as it reflects the true life of the church and is the true foundation of the church and State.

Rev. F. M. Shamburger, of Hertford, preached at the morning hour on the "Place of the Sacrament in the Church" followed by the Holy Communion. The afternoon was devoted to the laymen's missionary movement and the woman's missionary work. Rev. C. A. Jones and Rev. W. H. Brown were the speakers of the afternoon. Rev. J. C. Wooten, of Elizabeth City, preached in the grove. At the night service Rev. J. W. Potter, of Rouer, preached. The last day was the most important day of the conference as there was a great deal of business to come before the conference.

RETURN FROM CAMPING TRIP

Littleton Boy Scouts Have Novel Experience and Pass Tests.

Littleton, July 26.—The Boy Scouts of Littleton returned from their camping trip Friday afternoon, after having spent four delightful days in camp. Sleeping under tents, fighting mosquitoes, red-bugs and ticks and cooking outdoors was quite a new experience for the boys.

They had ideal weather for camping until the last night a heavy shower came up and gave them all a sprinkle. The boys spent their extra time fishing, boat riding and playing games. The boys passed their tests for second-class scouts while on this trip.